

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 004503

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ, INR/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAO IZ

SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - November 2, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of Barzan Al-Tikriti and calls to offer him cancer treatment, as well as anger over U.S. "occupation," were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on November 2, 2005. END SUMMARY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. "Criminals Stand Together" (Kitabat, 11/2)
B. "To Murderers of Man and Culture" (Watan Lil Jamee, 11/2)

SELECTED COMMENTARIES

A. "Criminals Stand Together"
(Editorial by Nezar Riheg - Kitabat - "Writings" -
<http://www.kitabat.com/i9634.htm> - Independent, based in Germany)

"Saddam's half brother, Barzan Al-Tikriti, is suffering from cancer and his treatment can only be found abroad; thus, he wrote a plea to his personal and family friend, Jalal Al-Talabani, whom he used to visit from time to time during the latter's efforts to strengthen his bonds with the dictatorship. It was not only a plea, but a reminder of previous crimes they shared together.

"The criminal felt sorry for his fellow criminal, so he agreed to respond to the plea on the condition that none of the shared secrets be revealed. The massacre of 'Bashtashan' followed a meeting between Al-Talabani and Al-Tikriti in which they agreed to purge Arabs who opposed the fascist regime... In return, Al-Talabani's bank accounts were filled by his close friend, Al-Tikriti, who was based in Switzerland at the time.

"This new plea seems to be a bargain that will prove very costly for Al-Talabani, as he needs to incorporate other parties to guarantee Barzan's rescue from imprisonment, if not death, and transform the whole issue into a humanitarian one. This is why Al-Ja'fari came on board even though he had no justification for his people. He and his family suffered a great deal from Saddam's regime and from Barzan Al-Tikriti, who spared no one—not Arabs, Kurds, Communists, Nationalists, nor any others who all shared the same fate: dismembered and mutilated bodies dumped in mass graves.

"Al-Ja'fari does not mind Barzan leaving prison, nor will he mind the others like Taha Al-Jezrawi or Abid Humood. It is as if he was the one who toppled the previous regime and is the gentle dictator of Iraq who cannot confess that such decisions should be made by the tribunal. since it is a democracy.

"What will Al-Ja'fari say to the families of victims who perished in the prisons of the previous regime? Why all this interest in this criminal when thousands of detainees are neglected? Where was he when abuses took place at Abu Ghraib and when Al-Talabani's statement that 'Saddam used to do worse' indicated that everything is a legitimate right for the Americans? How many Iraqis are suffering from cancer due to the depleted uranium from American weapons used in wars against Iraq? Why didn't Al-Talabani and Al-Ja'fari address the concerns of thousands of people with cancer, or demand the occupiers provide medical care for those infected? Why is it that only now the noble emotions of Al-Ja'fari drive him to save the life of Barzan Al-Tikriti and no one else?

"The amazing thing is that despite the essential differences between Al-Talabani and Al-Ja'fari and the exchanged accusations between them, the two seem to agree over two things: occupation forces remaining in Iraq, and the release of Barzan Al-Tikriti. As for future agreements, well, only God and Zalmay Khalilzad know."

B. "To Murderers of Man and Culture"
(Editorial by Hamza Shamkhi - Watan Lil Jamee - "Homeland for All" -
<http://wattan4all.com/viewarticle.php?id=6808&pg=articles> - Affiliated with Faili Kurd Party of Iraq)

"You have violated humanity, culture, and civilization

through your terrorist actions and dark methodologies. You have killed man and destroyed life. But this time you have taken it a step too far by destroying our national culture and attempting to wipe out our humanitarian heritage that crosses Iraqi borders and reaches out to the world.

"Not long ago, you targeted a symbol of our civilization represented in the spiral minaret in Samara, followed by the statue of the founder of the Republic of Iraq and the leader of the revolution, Abdul Kareem Qasim. Today your craven actions violate another symbol: the statue of Abu Ja'far Al-Mansour.

"All these monuments frighten you; our culture frightens you and so do our poetry, portraits, plays, and science. You live alone in your era of ignorance, this era that will inevitably vanish.

"Governmental and non-governmental organizations carry the onus of protecting our priceless national culture from the enemies of civilization, especially the monument of freedom in central Baghdad, which symbolizes our beloved and proud city."

SATTERFIELD